

MALARIA

Malaria is a parasitic infection of red blood cells caused by *Plasmodium species*. The disease is vectorborne and is transmitted to humans by the bites of the infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Malaria is characterized by cycles of chills, fever, headache, and sweating. Depending upon the species, acute illness may develop into a variety of syndromes with severe complications including coma and death. Malaria also may be transmitted transplacentally. The disease may recur over a period of 50 years.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

?? Demonstration of malaria parasites in blood films.

Class Classification

Confirmed: An episode of microscopically confirmed malaria parasitemia in any person (symptomatic or asymptomatic) diagnosed in the United States, regardless of whether the person experienced previous episodes of malaria while outside the country.

Comment

A subsequent attack experienced by the same person but caused by a different *Plasmodium* species is counted as an additional case. A subsequent attack experienced by the same person and caused by the same species in the United States may indicate a relapsing infection or treatment failure caused by drug resistance.

Epidemiology

Kentucky	2001	Rate per 100,000	Cases by Gender	Rate per 100,000
Cases	14	0.3	Female	3
			Male	10
U. S. Rate (2000)		0.57		0.5

Four of the cases were associated with military duty in Korea, 6 were in visitors or immigrants from Africa, 1 each in workers from Mexico and Lebanon, and 2 in American citizens who traveled to Africa.

